

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6 1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200 DALLAS TX 75202-2733

September 12, 2017

Albert R. Axe, Jr. Winstead PC 401 Congress Avenue, Suite 2100 Austin, Texas 78701

Re: San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site (Site)

Dear Al:

I am responding to your letter dated September 11, 2017, regarding your clients' concerns about the proposed sampling by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the Site. To clarify, EPA is not proposing pushing sampling cores through the cap into the waste and pulling cores back to the surface as stated in your letter, and therefore you are incorrect when you suggest that EPA's sampling will compromise the existing cap or release waste to the water column.

Samples have already been collected by your client pursuant to EPA's direction. The purpose of the proposed sampling is to ensure that waste materials were not exposed due to Hurricane Harvey. If EPA decides this additional sampling is necessary, the EPA will prepare a plan prior to the sampling event that will detail the methodology to safely sample any exposed material.

Sincerely,

Anne Foster

Assistant Regional Counsel

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cc:

David Keith John F. Cermak, Jr. Sonja A. Inglin